

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 is gratefully acknowledged by the Applicant.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14 and 18 have been amended, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been canceled and new claims 19-21 have been added. Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-21 are pending in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakanishi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,701,597 (hereinafter "Nakanishi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

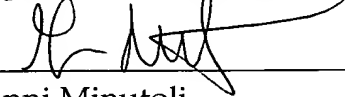
Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 4. As such, claims 2-3 and 6 are allowable. Claims 8 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 10. As such, claims 8 and 12 are allowable. Claims 14 and 18 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 16. As such, claims 14, 15 and 18 are allowable. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 2-3, 6, 8-9, 12, 14, 15 and 18 allowed.

New claim 19 depends from claim 4 and is allowable along with claim 4. New claim 20 depends from claim 10 and is allowable along with claim 10. New claim 21 depends from claim 16 and is allowable along with claim 16.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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